राज्य सरकारों से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे इन अभिकरणों के सुचारू कार्यकरण हेतु उन्हें सभी आवश्यक सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराएं।

श्रम और शक्ति निर्यात परिषद की स्थापना

*195 डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने भारतीय मूल के कर्मकारों और अन्य कुशल व्यावसायिकों को विदेशों में भेजने हेतु एक "श्रम-शक्ति निर्यात परिषद्" गठित करने का निर्णय लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) इस निर्णय को लेने के क्या कारण हैं तथा क्या सरकार निजी क्षेत्र के माध्यम से विदेशों में श्रमिकों को भेजे जाने की वर्तमान पद्धति पर प्रतिबंध लगाएगी; और

(घ) उक्त परिषद् कब तक गठित किए जाने की संभावना है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री श्री पी.ए संगमा

(क) से (ख) मामला सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

Change in coal mining process

*196. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that open cast coal mining results in environmental and ecological degradation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that coal from open cast mines is often mixed with gravel while coal from underground mines is of a better quality ;

(c) wheher Government would change the mining process from open cast to underground mining ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Coal mining activities, particularly the open cast have an adverse effect on the environment due to degradation of land, air and water pollution etc. However, in order to mitigate the adverse effects due to mining operations action is taken for implementation of environmental protective measures viz. land reclamation, afforestation, control of air and water pollution etc. Necessary protective measures are incorporated in the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) which are prepared for the individual coal projects.

(b) In opencast mining due to large scale mining operations with the use of heavy earth moving machinery, some admixture of stones, shales and overburden material with coal is unavoidable. However steps have been taken to improve the quality of coal by providing coal handling/screening plants for maintaining the quality of despatches, beneficiation of non-coking coal for eliminating extraneous material etc.

(c) and (d) The choice of method of coal mining viz. opencast or underground mainly depends on factors like the nature of the coal deposits, geo-mining conditions and therefore technology application is specific to the mining block.

Reforms in coal sector

*197. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are tthe major reforms proposed by Government in Public Sector Coal Industry, indiqating the objectives of the reforms;

(b) what is the number of surplus staff in officer and labour cadres; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the existing manpower, if so, what are the modalities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Consistent with the liberalisation policy of the Government major steps have been taken in the coal industry :

(i) to permit private sector participation in coal mining operations for the purpose of captive consumption for powers generation and other end uses to be notified as well as for seting up of washeries. This will augment the availability of coal for the core sector of the economy in the coming years. A Bill in this regard to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was introduced in the Parliament and is awaiting enactment. This would not affect the existing manpower of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries.

(ii) With a view to further improve availability of coal to the small consumers in different parts of tthe country, Coal India Ltd. have launched a new scheme for developing wholesale trade in coal. Under this scheme, the subsidiary companies of CIL will appoint wholesale dealers on the basis of application through open advertisement. Each dealer shall have to lift at least 3,000 tonnes of coal per month. Dealers will have the freedom to sell coal and fix prices for such sale.

Coal India had alsc introduced schemes under which any one could purchase upto 1000 tonnes of coal from certain collieries and Stockyards.

These measures would help in liquidation of accumulated pithead stocks and accrual of cash to Coal Companies.

(b) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited, the number of identified surplus manpower in labour cadre in their coal companies as on 1st November, 1992 was 14,920. There is no surplus in executive cadre.

(c) Coal India and its subsidiary companies have a system of preparation of annual manpower budget for all establishments right from the collieries/projects to areas and company headquarters. The system facilitates designationwise, categorywise and skillwise enumeration of manpower and its proper deployment according to the requirement of different units/establishment. Rationalisation of Manpower both horizontally and vertically from surplus areas to deficit areas is being undertaken on a continuing basis after imparting specified training/retraining in identified skills, wherever necessary.

Tobacco Exports to China

*198. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are claims and counter claims in regard to our tobacco exports to China;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken to settle these; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) As per information available with the Tobacco Board, the Chinese importers raised claims against Indian exporters of tobacco in 9 cases during 1982-83 and in 4 cases during 1986-87. All these claims were settled between the importers and exporters amicably except in one case relating to M/s. Gogineni Tobaccos. In that case, though the importer and exporter reportedly agreed for the settlement of the claim by supply of 610 tonnes of tobacco initially towards full settlement, later the issue became a dispute as the importer was reported to have gone back on the agreement and demanded cash payment instead of supply of tobacco. As the exporter was not agreeable to this, the issue is in stalemate.

Policy Framework for Counter Trade

*199. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :